

Hi everyone

Welcome to the December Newsletter for the Biggin Hill Users Database (a short one this time as I've been away for most of the month!) – The last one before Christmas. Welcome also to any new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time. (Thank you all for your emails wishing me well with my ongoing medical situation – your support is very much appreciated.)

You are reminded that, even if you ever fail to receive your Newsletter by email, you can always view it online, as well as back copies of this Newsletter and also all the original Biggin Hill “Bugles” written by our own John Bryan (JB), by visiting the club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

(we are aware that some email addresses, particularly “gmail”, have failed to reach the intended recipients. So, if you have not received your copy within 24 hours of the beginning of the month, please check the club website (www.bigginhillclub.co.uk) where you can find and draw down the current newsletter - and of course back copies as well!)

NOVEMBER WEATHER

Although personally spending most of November in Florida, it does appear that the weather for light aircraft flying in November has been far from ideal. Not the best month I understand. In fact, as I write this, we have one of the first days that seem to offer VFR flying conditions!

All we can all hope is that this is not a sign of the weather that we can expect to see for the next few months!

NOVEMBER BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

The “posted” Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of December 2019 are:

£1.57 per litre for 100LL Avgas if supplied from the Fuel Bowser
(if uplifted using account card or credit card from the Self-Refuel pumps = minus 4p per litre)

£0.64.9 per litre for Jet A1

MARTIN JEFFRIES

Sadly I have been informed that another old Biggin Hill'ite, Martin Jeffries, passed away some time ago.

Martin was an active pilot at Biggin Hill many years ago, and may be remembered by the older Biggin Hill'ites. The information on his passing was gleaned by one of our active members whilst he was attending a Virgin Atlantic reunion recently.

Martin apparently served as the Chief Flying Instructor at Surrey and Kent Flying Club for a while after John Delany (of Old Times Furnishings) bought the club from the original club owners, Peter Chinn, Tiny Marshall, and Harry Croft.

After moving on to the airline world, Martin eventually became a Captain on Heralds with British Island Airways and is thought to have moved up to the MD83 subsequently.

He was renowned as having a fantastic sense of humour.

Little else is known at this stage about Martin's life, but I'm sure others on here may well have more memories of him in his early aviation life at Biggin.

His name has, of course, been added to the Biggin Hill Airport Roll of Honour at www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk

R.I.P. Martin

FLY2HELP WINTER BALL

Don't forget that the Fly2Help annual Winter Ball, is being held at the Warren in Hayes from 6:30pm on 12th December 2019.

I have been lead to believe that there are still a few tickets available for this Black Tie event that promises to be a grand evening with a pre-dinner drink, a three course meal, entertainment and a Raffle.

Tickets can be bought individually or full tables of 10 persons may still be available.

For the promotional leaflet, see: <http://www.johnwillis.co.uk/bhreunited/winterball.pdf>

For more information and tickets please email mike@fly2help.org

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS, BUSINESSES & OTHER AIRPORT USERS

If you would like me to include your business or personal comments in the Newsletter, either on a regular basis, or just occasionally, please drop me an email with your contact details and the requested contribution and I will try to include it in the next Newsletter. I will acknowledge anything sent to me for inclusion. (Please email: John Willis at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

ALOUETTE FLYING CLUB

Has it stopped raining yet? A few cancelled flights this month due to weather, otherwise it's been business as usual. Although shorter daylight keeps some flying local or for lunch only; those with a Night Rating have no such restrictions of time.

Our Cessna 172's soon use up their hours to next service.

We've had to take on new instructors this season to supplement our existing crews; they are settling in fine. When it stops raining they will help us with our increased training commitment and demand.

Alouette is represented on the new G.A. steering group meetings with Biggin management where we champion G.A. issues at this busy jet airfield. We will continue to "persuade" management to make changes to keep G.A. pilots happier and flying from Biggin easier.

Alouette's bar continues to be popular as the chat is never ending. Beer and wine flow strongly and when it's time to restock the barman simply asks everyone present what they would prefer next month. Everybody is kept happy, from unusual tipples to regular brews.

As you may expect, we are busy socially over the festive season. Not only our AGM but also a New Year's Day "Bash" to get 1st January in log books. Then our annual club dinner. Both well attended.

Look out! Whew! Thought that was Santa doing low level circuits!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you from all at Alouette

Regards
Bruno Bruniges
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

As the festive season is about to pick up pace, our focus remains on ensuring safety is paramount and that our winter operations are efficient and thorough. Whilst the long-term weather forecasts suggest we can expect a challenging winter, I remain hopeful that the snow will stay away from Biggin Hill.

Despite the market remaining challenging, the Airport continues to hold its own and maintain just short of 20% of the London market. The Airport continues to attract traffic, reinforcing our position as London's Business aviation gateway to the capital and a home base for both private and commercial operators.

We hope to bring Hotel taxiway into to full operation during the next week or so and I would, once again, like to thank the whole community for the patience they have shown whilst this construction has been underway. I am pleased to report that the Airport's Safety Case for the GPS 03 Approach has now been submitted to the CAA and we will work hard to bring the approach into service in late Autumn 2020. The Airport continues to review its investment plans over the next 12 months and as part of its development of the Airport's 5-year business plan.

I am delighted to report that the second meeting of the Light Aviation Steering Group was extremely productive, and the level of debate bodes well for the future of this group and for light aviation at Biggin Hill. It is essential that the airport community engages with this group and ensures that members are informed of both their concerns as well as their ideas on how we can all shape the future of light aviation.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone across the Airport community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Cheers
David Winstanley

ROLL OF HONOUR

Thank you to members that continue to provide us with additional names of old Biggin Hill'ites who we had missed. The Roll of Honour can be seen on the website at www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk

(Anyone who flew from, or worked, or even socialised regularly at the airport since it became a civilian base in 1959/60 and who has passed away, should ideally be included on there. If you know of someone whose name belongs on the Roll, please email me with their names, and details at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

DATABASE EMAIL ADDRESSES

A constantly updated list of database members can be seen at <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> Please remember to let me know if your email address is changed. If you know others who are not on the list but are eligible to join (i.e. if they currently fly from the airport, or work there, or ever have done so) please let me know or tell them about us – Database membership is, of course, free.

All there is left is for me to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Have a great one everybody!

That's it for this month and for 2019.....

John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: As usual, a few amusing stories that, according to the many comments I receive about this section, is very popular amongst the membership. (As always, no offence to anyone is intended!). Thanks to everyone for sending their contributions.... Please keep sending them to me by email john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk , my stock for the newsletter is getting quite low....!)

QUOTE.....

I went to my doctor and told him that every time I see a biro lid, I get all sad and tearful.

"Tell me, "he replied," How long have you had these pen top emotions?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A thief entered a house mid-afternoon.

He tied up the woman and at knife-point asked the man to hand over the jewellery and money.

The man started sobbing and said, "You can take anything you want. You can kill me. But please untie the rope and free her."

Thief: "You must really love your wife!"

Man: "No, but she will be home shortly".

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A fleeing Taliban terrorist, desperate for water, was plodding through the Afghan desert when he saw something far off in the distance. Hoping to find water, he hurried toward the mirage, only to find a very frail little old Jewish man standing at a small makeshift display rack - selling ties.

The Taliban terrorist asked, "Do you have water?"

The Jewish man replied, "I have no water. Would you like to buy a tie? They are only \$5."

The Taliban shouted hysterically, "Idiot Infidel! I do not need such an over-priced western adornment - I spit on your ties. I need water!"

"Sorry, I have none - just ties - pure silk - and only \$5."

"Pahh! A curse on your ties, I should wrap one around your scrawny little neck and choke the life out of you, but I must conserve my energy and find water!"

"Okay," said the little old Jewish man, it does not matter that you do not want to buy a tie from me or that you hate me, threaten my life and call me infidel. I will show you that I am bigger than any of that. If you continue over that hill to the east for about two miles, you will find a restaurant. It has the finest food and all the ice-cold water you need... Go in Peace!

Cursing him again, the desperate Taliban staggered away over the hill.

Several hours later, he crawled back, almost dead and gasped, "They won't let me in without a tie!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A moral test for you...

This test only has one question, but it's a very important one. By giving an honest answer, you will discover where you stand morally.

The test features an unlikely, completely fictional situation in which you will have to make a decision.

Remember that your answer needs to be honest, yet spontaneous.

Please scroll down slowly and give due consideration to each line.

THE SITUATION

You are in England, York to be specific.

There is chaos all around you caused by a hurricane with severe flooding. This is a flood of biblical proportions.

You are a photo-journalist working for a major newspaper, and you're caught in the middle of this epic disaster. The situation is nearly hopeless.

You're trying to shoot career-making photos.

There are houses and people swirling around you, some disappearing into the water.

Nature is unleashing all its destructive fury.

THE TEST

Suddenly, you see a man in the water.

He is fighting for his life, trying not to be taken down with the debris.

You move closer. Somehow, the man looks familiar...

You suddenly realise who it is... It's the leader of the Parliamentary opposition party!

You notice that the raging waters are about to take him under forever.

You have two options:

You can save the life of a well-known politician or you can shoot a dramatic Pulitzer Prize-winning photo, documenting the death of one of the country's most well-known men.

THE QUESTION

Here's the question, and please give an honest answer...

v

v

v

v

v

Would you select high contrast colour, or would you go with the classic simplicity of black and white?

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

There is an overweight guy who is watching TV. A commercial comes on for a guaranteed weight loss of 10 pounds in a week.

So the guy, thinking what the hell, signs up for it.

Next morning an incredibly beautiful woman is standing at his door in nothing but a pair of running shoes and a sign about her neck that reads, "If you can catch me, you can have me."

As soon as he sees her, she takes off running. He tries to catch her, but is unable. This continues for a week, at the end of which, the man has lost 10 pounds.

After this he tries the next weight loss plan, 15 pounds in a week.

The next morning an even more beautiful woman is standing at the door, in similar conditions. The same happens with her as the first woman, except he almost catches her. This continues for a week, at the end of which he, as suspected, weighs 15 pounds less.

Excited about this success, he decides to do the master program. Before he signs up, he is required to sign a waiver and is warned about the intensity of this plan. Still he signs up.

The next morning, waiting at the door, is a hulking 300 pound muscle man with nothing but a pair of running shoes, a raging erection, and a sign around his neck that says, "If I catch you, you're mine!"

The man was supposed to lose 25 pounds in the week; he lost 34.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A worldwide survey was conducted by the UN.

The only question asked was: "Would you please give your honest opinion about solutions to the food shortage in the rest of the world?"

The survey was a huge failure.

In Africa they didn't know what "food" meant.

In Eastern Europe they didn't know what "honest" meant.

In Western Europe they didn't know what "shortage" meant.

In China they didn't know what "opinion" meant.

In the Middle East they didn't know what "solution" meant.

In South America they didn't know what "please" meant.

And in the USA they didn't know what "the rest of the world" meant.

.....UNQUOTE

(If anyone else has good examples of, for example: - Governmental stupidity and removal of the population's right to live a normal life, or simply any funny, unusual and interesting stories or anecdotes that you feel may interest or amuse our readers, please email them to me as a possible inclusion in a monthly "and Finally"...)